Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraphs [0024], [0025], [0027], [0114] and [0115] of the specification (as filed) as follows:

[0024] ~~Fig.~~ Figs. 8(A) to ~~6(C)~~ 8(C) are diagrams for explaining the process of producing generally uniform light intensity distribution by the illumination optical system of Embodiment 2;

[0025] Figs. 9(A) ~~to~~ and 9(C) , which correspond to Figs. 8(A) and 8(C) respectively, are graphs for explaining the process of producing generally uniform light intensity distribution by the illumination optical system of Embodiment 2;

[0027] Figs. 11(A) to ~~10(C)~~ 11(C) show light irradiation angle distribution on a light modulation panel by an illumination optical system using a conventional two-dimensional optical integrator;

[0114] Description is here made for light intensity distribution with which the light modulation panel is illuminated by using a combination of the light intensity conversion optics and the optical integrator described in Fig. 3, with reference to Figs. 8(A) to 8(C) and, 9(A) ~~to~~ and 9(C).

[0115] Figs. 8(A) to 8(C) and, 9(A) ~~to~~ and 9(C) show the process of forming light intensity distribution on the light modulation panel by the illumination optical system of Embodiment 2. Figs. 8(A) and 9(A) show a cross sectional profile of the luminous flux emitted from the lamp unit formed of the gas exciting light source and the parabolic reflecting mirror. In Fig. 8(A), a brighter portion indicates a higher light intensity. In Fig. 9(A), a solid line shows light intensity distribution in cross section in a horizontal (X) direction at the center (0 mm) in a vertical (Y) direction in Fig. 8(A), while a dotted line shows light intensity distribution in cross section in the vertical (Y) direction at the center (0 mm) in the horizontal (X) direction in Fig. 8(A).